

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7025

BILL NUMBER: HB 1263

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 4, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Timber Sales and Wilderness Areas.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Pierce

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill adds the promotion of tourism and recreation activities in state forests as public policies of the state.

The bill establishes requirements that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must follow before entering into a contract to sell timber from a state forest. It provides that requirements to grant a contract to log the timber does not apply to existing contracts.

The bill allows areas to be established and preserved as wilderness areas. The bill requires the DNR to survey state forest lands every five years to determine if certain lands should be designated as nature preserves or wilderness areas.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2006.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Before the DNR may issue, extend, or renew a permit, lease, or contract to remove timber from a state forest, the DNR must prepare a preliminary forest management plan that includes findings from the environmental impact statement; hold a public hearing on the plan; allow public comments to be submitted for at least 60 days after the hearing; and prepare a final forest management plan. Before entering into a contract for the removal and sale of timber, the state forester must consider the impact on the value of privately owned timber in the state, potential effects on tourism and recreation activities, and the potential effects on game and nongame wildlife.

The DNR must establish and maintain a registry of wilderness areas in addition to other areas already required.

Before November 1, 2006, and every five years subsequently, the DNR must conduct a survey of state forest lands for the purpose of designating areas as nature preserves and wilderness areas. The DNR must allow public comment in the survey. The above provisions will likely increase DNR expenditures by an indeterminable amount. Timber sales for the past four years are listed below.

State Forest Timber Sales				
Fiscal Year	Harvested Acres	Revenue	Board Foot Volume Sold	Trees Sold
2000-2001	1,287	\$572,340	1,931,046	8,712
2001-2002	844	\$386,369	1,245,926	6,064
2002-2003	1,998	\$1,096,377	3,458,199	15,926
2003-2004	1,660	\$897,313	3,422,287	17,475

Revenue from the sale of timber is used for forestry administration purposes.

Explanation of State Revenues: See *Explanation of State Expenditures* above.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: DNR.

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